

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01166 110827Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /110 W
----- 049462

R 101705Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8480

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,SL

SUBJECT: TOP UDP LEADERS RELEASED FROM DETENTION

REF FREETOWN 0924

1. PRESIDENT STEVENS TODAY RELEASED FROM PRISON THE UDP LEADERS DR. MOHAMED FORNA AND IBRAHIM BASH-TAQI, WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED SINCE THE FALL OF 1970. ALSO RELEASED WAS THE WIDOW OF BRIGADIER BANGUR, THE EXECUTED FORCE COMMANDER WHO LED THE ABORTIVE COUP

IN MARCH 1971. EX-BRIGADIER DAVID LANSANA WHO PREVENTED STEVENS FROM TAKING POWER AFTER THE 1967 ELECTION WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK.

2. STEVENS HAS BEEN TELLING PEOPLE FOR OVER A MONTH THAT HE INTENDED TO RELEASE ALL THE DETAINEES (SEE REFTEL). THE TIMING OF THE RELEASE WAS A GREAT SURPRISE, NONETHELESS, AS STEVENS ORDERED IT ONLY HOURS BEFORE HE LEFT THE COUNTRY ON A FOUR WEEK TRIP TO SWITZERLAND, ETHIOPIA AND CANADA.

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3. COMMENT: THE RELEASE OF FORNA AND BASH-TAQI UNDERSCORES STEVENS CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAS THE SECURITY SITUATION WELL IN HAND. IT WAS TIMED FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT AND WILL ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE THE POSTURE OF THE CONCILIATORY NATIONAL LEADER WHO HAS SET HIS HOUSE IN ORDER DURING HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS. THE EMBASSY NOW EXPECTS THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WILL NOT BE RENEWED WHEN IT RUNS OUT JULY 18.
OLSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FREETO01166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730744/aaaabfzo.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 FREETOWN 924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: TOP UDP LEADERS RELEASED FROM DETENTION
TAGS: PINT, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005